

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please add the following new paragraph before the paragraph beginning on line 3 of page 1:

**--PRIORITY CLAIM**

This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/919,637, filed August 1, 2001, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/223,959, filed August 9, 2000. Both of the prior applications are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.--

Please add the following new paragraph before the paragraph beginning on line 25 of page 5:

**--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Figure 1 illustrates the increase in molecular weight as a function of time of a conjugate (conjugate 28) of the invention relative to the mass of the core protein with the dienophiles attached.

Figure 2 illustrates a similar time-dependent experiment as represented in Figure 1, conducted with the same maleimido-derivatized protein, using previously-described diene 8.--